



February 14, 2014

This week's edition includes important information I want to share with you:

- **An Ounce of Prevention:** This week, we want to thank all providers who participated in the Provider Manual Roll-Out meetings held in Jackson and Nashville earlier this week. Due to inclement weather in the East region, the Oak Ridge roll-out will be rescheduled for a later date. Topics covered during these meetings included new requirements, as well as clarifications to existing requirements. The documents presented will be posted on the DIDD website for reference in the near future.
- **Executive Order:** On February 12, President Obama signed an Executive Order that will raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 for federal contract workers beginning January 1, 2015. The Executive Order will also cover persons with disabilities. Under current law, workers whose productivity is affected because of their disabilities may be paid less than the wage paid to others doing the same job under certain specialized certificate programs. Under this Executive Order, all persons working under service or concessions contracts with the federal government will be covered by the same \$10.10 per hour minimum wage protections. According to the White House press release on this subject (February 12), "the President will continue to work with Congress to finish the job to raise the minimum wage for all Americans and pass the Harkin-Miller bill so that all workers can be paid at least a \$10.10 minimum wage." To view the entire Executive Order, click [here](#).
- **Annual Conference:** The Tennessee Adult Brothers and Sisters (TABS) of people with disabilities group will hold its annual conference at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt on April 4-5, 2014. The theme of this year's conference is "Relationships" and sessions will focus on the dynamics of relationships between siblings with and without disabilities, relationships with other family members, relationships with spouses or partners affected by the sibling relationship, relationships with community care providers and professionals in your sibling's life and more. Author, blogger and sister of a younger brother with autism, Caroline McGraw will provide a keynote address about her experiences growing up with her brother and the lessons she has learned.

The TABS conference, sponsored by the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities, will empower and educate adult siblings who have a brother or a sister with a disability with information and resources, and will develop local and statewide support networks of adult siblings. Attendees can learn how to support their brother and sister with a disability to live meaningful lives in the community, plan for future family financial needs, practice "self-care" in their own lives and much more. Conference registration is \$50 (\$25 for students) and the deadline to register is March 22. Fees include meals, conference materials and a TABS tote bag. Limited financial assistance is available. To register, click [here](#) or contact 615-343-0545 for more information.

- **Ticket to Work:** The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Ticket to Work program is providing a series of e-mails to interested persons titled, "The Journey to Financial Independence." The series will provide information about how the Ticket program may help you or someone you know who is interested in working make more money, keep health care and reduce reliance on disability benefits. By signing up, you will receive a series of informational e-mails once every week or two; users can unsubscribe at any time. To get started, click on the following links for more information:

[Working While on Social Security Benefits](#)

[You're Ready to Work. What Now?](#)

[Getting a Job While Participating in Ticket to Work](#)

[Managing Your Job](#)

If you would like personalized help, you can call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967(TTY).

- **Go Red 2014:** On February 7, the Middle Tennessee Regional Office (MTRO) joined a nationwide health initiative in the fight against cardiovascular disease in women. MTRO, including Clover Bottom Developmental Center (CBDC), had DIDD champions wear red in honor of the American Heart Association's "Go Red" campaign. Heart disease is the number one killer of women age 25 and older. Stroke is the number four killer of women, as women account for 61 percent of all stroke deaths annually. We appreciate everyone who participated in this initiative!



- **Greeneville Focus Group:** The next meeting is February 25 from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Greene County Skills conference room. The session will focus on promoting self-awareness, self-esteem and health/safety through persons completing the Person Centered Practices Personal ID tool. Friends, support staff, advocates, ISCs and others are welcome. Please RSVP by February 21 to Chaneth.Quemore@tn.gov or jwinters@theartn.org.
- **Planning and Policy Councils (PPCs):** The Statewide Planning and Policy Council (SPPC) will meet on February 26 at 5500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, 37211. The meeting will be held in the community room from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be the council's first meeting of 2014. All DIDD PPC meetings are open to the public. If you know of someone who would be interesting in coming to the meeting, please invite them. For additional information or if you require ADA assistance, please contact Kellie Miller at 615-741-0837 or Kellie.Miller@tn.gov.

Be safe and have a great weekend!

~Debbie